



# SPECIMEN

GCSE

LATIN

Latin Translation and Comprehension  
(Higher Tier)  
Specimen Paper

H

A401

Time: 1 hour

Candidates answer on the question paper.

Additional materials:

None

Candidate  
Forename

Candidate  
Surname

Centre  
Number

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Candidate  
Number

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## INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the boxes above.
- Use blue or black ink. Pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.
- Read each answer carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Answer **all** the questions.
- Do not write in the bar codes.
- Do not write outside the box bordering each page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.

## INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks for each question is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is 60.

Answer all the questions.

Read the passage and answer the questions.

*Nero got rid of his mother's favourite, Pallas. Agrippina then turned against her son and supported his rival to the throne, Britannicus.*

postquam Nero Pallantem expulit, Agrippina, mater imperatoris, iratissima erat. statim filium minari coepit. 'Britannicus', inquit, 'cuius pater erat imperator Claudius, iam adultus est. ille, non filius meus, imperator esse debet.' Nero, his verbis territus, Britannicum interficere constituit. hoc aperte facere nolebat, quod cives Romani Britannicum maxime amabant; itaque militi cuidam imperavit ut venenum in cibum Britannici poneret. Britannicus tamen, consumpto veneno, non mortuus est.

### Vocabulary

*Nero, Neronis* (m)

*Pallas, Pallantis* (m)

*Agrippina, Agrippinae* (f)

*minor, minari, minatus est*

*Britannicus, Britannici* (m)

*Claudius, Claudi* (m)

*adultus, adulti* (m)

*aperte*

*venenum, veneni* (n)

Nero

Pallas

Agrippina

I threaten

Britannicus

Claudius

adult

openly

poison

- 1 *postquam Nero Pallantem expulit, Agrippina, mater imperatoris, iratissima erat* (line 1): after Nero got rid of Pallas, how did Agrippina feel?

..... [2]

- 2 *statim filium minari coepit* (lines 1-2): what did Agrippina begin to do as a result of feeling this way?

..... [2]

- 3 'Britannicus', inquit, 'cuius pater erat imperator Claudius, iam adultus est' (line 2): what two facts does Agrippina give here about Britannicus?

..... [2]

- 4 *ille, non filius meus, imperator esse debet* (lines 2-3): what was Agrippina's opinion about who should be the emperor?

..... [2]

5 Nero, his verbis territus, Britannicum interficere constituit (line 3).

(a) Write down the Latin phrase which shows Nero's reaction to what Agrippina said.

..... [1]

(b) Give the meaning of this Latin phrase.

..... [2]

(c) What did Nero therefore decide to do?

..... [1]

6 *hoc aperte facere nolebat, quod cives Romani Britannicum maxime amabant* (lines 3-4): why did Nero not wish to kill Britannicus openly?

..... [3]

7 *itaque militi cuidam imperavit ut venenum in cibum Britannici poneret, Britannicus tamen, consumpto veneno, non mortuus est* (lines 4-5):

(a) how did Nero attempt to kill Britannicus?

..... [3]

(b) what happened next?

..... [2]

Read and translate the passage.

*Nero's second attempt was more successful but afterwards Agrippina began to plot against him. Nero reached a terrible decision.*

olim Britannicus cum amicis sedebat ut cenam consumeret. quod timebat ne quis se occidere conaretur, semper iubebat unum ex servis omnem cibum vinumque prius gustare. tum, ubi poculum vini a servo accepit, in quod nullum venenum positum erat, Britannicus iussit servum aquam vino addere.

**Vocabulary**

<i>quis</i>	(here) someone
<i>prius</i>	beforehand
<i>gusto, gustare, gustavi, gustatus</i>	I taste
<i>poculum, poculi (n)</i>	cup
<i>venenum, veneni (n)</i>	poison
<i>addo, addere, addidi, additus</i>	I add

- 8 Translate the passage above into good English.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

[20]

Read the passage and answer the questions.

sed in hac aqua fuit venenum, validius quam antea. venenum per totum corpus Britannici tam celeriter pervasit ut mox loqui non posset. eo tempore Agrippina intellexit filium suum iam mori. Agrippina ad tantam iram morte Britannici mota est ut Nero nullis donis eam placare posset. Agrippina, inimicis Neronis ad se vocatis, consilium contra Neronem parare coepit. hoc cognito, Nero matrem misit in aliam domum ne nobiles, qui saepe ad domum suam venire solebant, matrem quoque visitarent. Agrippina, iam ab omnibus amicis relicta, nesciebat quid facere deberet. interea Nero constituit matrem suam necare.

### Vocabulary

<i>pervado, pervadere, pervasi, pervasus</i>	I spread through
<i>placo, placare, placavi, placatus</i>	I appease, pacify
<i>nobiles, nobilium</i> (m pl)	nobles
<i>visito, visitare, visitavi, visitatus</i>	I visit

9 *validius quam antea* (line 1): what was different about the poison this time?

..... [1]

10 *venenum per totum corpus Britannici tam celeriter pervasit ut mox loqui non posset. eo tempore Agrippina intellexit filium suum iam mori.* (lines 1-2):

(a) what effect did the rapid spread of the poison have on Britannicus?

..... [1]

(b) what did Agrippina realise when she saw this?

..... [1]

11 *Agrippina ad tantam iram morte Britannici mota est ut Nero nullis donis eam placare posset* (line 3):

(a) what was Agrippina's reaction to Britannicus' death?

..... [1]

(b) in what way did Nero try to win back his mother's favour?

..... [1]

12 *Agrippina, inimicis Neronis ad se vocatis, consilium contra Neronem parare coepit* (line 4): why did Agrippina call Nero's enemies to her?

..... [2]

13 *hoc cognito, Nero matrem misit in aliam domum ne nobiles, qui saepe ad domum suam venire solebant, matrem quoque visitarent* (lines 4-6):

(a) when Nero found out about this, what did he do to Agrippina?

..... [2]

(b) why did Nero do this?

..... [2]

[Turn over]

- 14 Agrippina, iam ab omnibus amicis reicta, nesciebat quid facere deberet (line 6): what were the two effects of Nero's actions on Agrippina?

..... [4]

- 15 What drastic decision did Nero eventually reach?

..... [1]

- 16 For each of the Latin words in the table below, give **one** English word which has been derived from the Latin word and give the meaning of the English word.

Write your answers in the boxes. One has been done for you.

Latin word	English word	Meaning of the English word
<i>matrem</i>	maternal	motherly
<i>loqui</i>		
<i>cognito</i>		

[4]

Paper Total [60]

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OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

GCSE

LATIN

A401

Unit A401: Latin Translation and Comprehension  
(Higher Tier)

The maximum mark for this paper is 60.

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This document consists of **6** printed pages.

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
1	<p><i>postquam Nero Pallantem expulit, Agrippina, mater imperatoris, iratissima erat</i> (line 1): after Nero got rid of Pallas, how did Agrippina feel?</p> <p>She was very (1) angry (1).</p>	[2]
2	<p><i>statim filium minari coepit</i> (lines 1-2): what did Agrippina begin to do as a result of feeling this way?</p> <p>She began to threaten (1) her son (1).</p>	[2]
3	<p><i>'Britannicus,' inquit, 'cuius pater erat imperator Claudius, iam adultus est'</i> (line 2): what two facts does Agrippina give here about Britannicus?</p> <p>His father was the emperor Claudius (1). He was now an adult (1).</p>	[2]
4	<p><i>ille, non filius meus, imperator esse debet</i> (lines 2-3): what was Agrippina's opinion about who should be the emperor?</p> <p>Britannicus should be emperor (1) not Nero/her son (1).</p>	[2]
5(a)	<p><i>Nero, his verbis territus, Britannicum interficere constituit</i> (line 3). Write down the Latin phrase which shows Nero's reaction to what Agrippina said.</p> <p><i>his verbis territus</i></p>	[1]
5(b)	<p>Give the meaning of this Latin phrase.</p> <p>terrified (1) by these words (1)</p>	[2]
5(c)	<p>What did Nero therefore decide to do?</p> <p>Nero decided to kill Britannicus.</p>	[1]
6	<p><i>hoc aperte facere solebat, quod cives Romani Britannicum maxime amabant</i> (lines 3-4): why did Nero not wish to kill Britannicus openly?</p> <p>Because the Romans (1) liked him (1) very much (1).</p>	[3]

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
7	<i>itaque militi cuidam imperavit ut venenum in cibum Britannici poneret, Britannicus tamen, consumpto veneno, non mortuus est</i> (lines 4-5):	
7(a)	<b>how did Nero attempt to kill Britannicus?</b> Nero ordered (1) a soldier (1) to poison Britannicus' food (1).	[3]
7(b)	<b>what happened next?</b> Britannicus consumed the poison (1) but survived (1).	[2]
8	<p>Translate the passage into good English.</p> <p>1 olim Britannicus cum amicis sedebat ut cenam consumeret.      2 quod timebat ne quis se occidere conaretur,      3 semper iubebat unum ex servis omnem cibum vinumque prius gustare.      4 tum, ubi poculum vini a servo accepit, in quod nullum venenum positum erat,      5 Britannicus iussit servum aquam vino addere.</p> <p>The passage has been divided into 5 sections, worth 4 marks each.      Marks for each section should be awarded as follows.</p> <p>[4] Perfectly accurate      [3] Overall sense correct; minor error(s) (eg tense, number)      [2] Part correct; overall sense lacking/unclear      [1] Not coherent; isolated knowledge of vocabulary only      [0] Totally incorrect or omitted</p> <p>N.B. Consequential errors should not be penalised.</p> <p>A total mark for the passage (maximum 20) should be recorded.</p>	[20]
9	<b><i>validius quam antea</i> (line 1): what was different about the poison this time?</b> The poison was stronger (than before).	[1]

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
10	<i>venenum per totum corpus Britannici tam celeriter pervasit ut mox loqui non posset. eo tempore Agrippina intellexit filium suum iam mori</i> (lines 1-2):	
10(a)	<b>What effect did the rapid spread of the poison have on Britannicus?</b> Britannicus was unable to speak.	[1]
10(b)	<b>What did Agrippina realise when she saw this?</b> Agrippina realised that Britannicus was dying.	[1]
11	<i>Agrippina ad tantam iram morte Britannici mota est ut Nero nullis donis eam placare posset</i> (line 3):	
11(a)	<b>what was Agrippina's reaction to Britannicus' death?</b> Agrippina was angry.	[1]
11(b)	<b>in what way did Nero try to win back his mother's favour?</b> He gave her gifts.	
12	<i>Agrippina, inimicis Neronis ad se vocatis, consilium contra Neronem parare coepit</i> (line 4): why did Agrippina call Nero's enemies to her? In order to draw up a plan (1) against Nero (1).	[2]
13	<i>hoc cognito, Nero matrem misit in aliam domum ne nobiles, qui saepe ad domum suam venire solebant, matrem quoque visitarent</i> (lines 4-6):	
13(a)	<b>when Nero found out about this, what did he do to Agrippina?</b> Nero sent Agrippina (1) to another house (1).	[2]
13(b)	<b>why did Nero do this?</b> Nero did this so that noblemen (1) could not visit her (1).	[2]
14	<i>Agrippina, iam ab omnibus amicis relicta, nesciebat quid facere deberet</i> (line 6): what were the two effects of Nero's actions on Agrippina? Agrippina was cut off (1) from her friends (1). Agrippina did not know (1) what to do (1).	[4]

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark									
15	<b>What drastic decision did Nero eventually reach?</b> Nero decided to kill his mother.	[1]									
16	<b>For each of the Latin words in the table below, give one English word which has been derived from the Latin word and give the meaning of the English word.</b>  <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Latin word</th><th>English word</th><th>Meaning of the English word</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td><i>loqui</i></td><td>eloquent</td><td>well-spoken</td></tr><tr><td><i>cognito</i></td><td>cognitive</td><td>related to learning</td></tr></tbody></table> Accept any reasonable answer (1) with a satisfactory meaning (1).	Latin word	English word	Meaning of the English word	<i>loqui</i>	eloquent	well-spoken	<i>cognito</i>	cognitive	related to learning	[4]
Latin word	English word	Meaning of the English word									
<i>loqui</i>	eloquent	well-spoken									
<i>cognito</i>	cognitive	related to learning									
Paper Total		[60]									

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**Assessment Objectives Grid**

Question	AO1	Total
1-16	60	<b>60</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>

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